

For example, last year, a major toxicology laboratory was required to pay the government \$12 million in a False Claims Act qui tam case when it was found to have paid unlawful kickbacks to a marketer and health care provider in exchange for referrals for urine drug tests. The whistleblower-inspired investigation also led to a criminal indictment of individuals involved in the scheme and the establishment of a five-year Corporate Integrity Agreement with the Department of Health and Human Service's Office of Inspector General, which required the company to retain an Independent Review Organization to monitor its arrangements with individuals and other entities and to routinely report to the Office of Inspector General.

Those who blow the whistle on federal contractors are typically awarded 15 to 30 percent of the funds recovered by DOJ. One whistleblower collected \$4 million in a False Claims Act qui tam case on behalf of the government against two contractors that knowingly failed to comply with federal and state prevailing wage laws. The contractors agreed to correct their compensation practices, and their employees were paid back wages.

In these cases, whistleblowers brought the fraud to light, companies were held accountable, taxpayer funds were recovered, future misconduct was averted, and workers were made whole.

I want to thank my constituent Renee Brooker, partner at Tycko & Zavareei LLP and former Civil Frauds Assistant Director at DOJ for sharing her expertise on whistleblower law with my office.

Today, on National Whistleblower Appreciation Day, I ask my colleagues to recognize whistleblowers and to encourage more individuals to become whistleblowers.

IN HONOR OF SPECIAL AGENT SCOTT D. PAYNE AND HIS RE- TIREMENT FROM LAW ENFORCE- MENT

HON. TIM BURCHETT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2021

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the career of newly retired Special Agent Scott D. Payne, who spent 28 years in law enforcement keeping our communities and our country safe.

Special Agent Payne started his law enforcement career in Greenville, South Carolina. He served in the Greenville County Sheriffs office for five years, working as a Uniform Patrol Officer and a Vice and Narcotics Investigator.

In 1998, he joined the FBI and became the primary undercover agent in many long-term undercover operations. He risked his safety to investigate violent motorcycle gangs, public corruption, murder for hire, drug trafficking organizations, and domestic terrorist groups with international ties. He was also an FBI SWAT Team Operator for over 7 years, diving head-first into dangerous situations to bring down violent criminals.

Special Agent Payne would go on to become an instructor in firearms, tactics, and undercover work. Thousands of law enforcement officers across the country were trained under

his leadership. He was also the Principal Tactical Instructor, Principle Defensive Tactics Instructor, and Lead Active Shooter Instructor for FBI Knoxville.

Special Agent Payne spent his career keeping folks safe, stopping criminals, and preparing the next generation of law enforcement officers for duty. I thank Special Agent Payne for his service. I wish him the best of luck in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVER- SARY OF THE CALIFORNIA DE- PARTMENT OF VETERANS AF- FAIRS' HOME LOAN PROGRAM

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2021

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs' Home Loan Program. For a century, this loan assistance program has helped veterans and their families realize the American dream of homeownership after returning from their service to our country.

The Farm and Home Loan Program was created on May 30, 1921, to thank California veterans for their service and sacrifice in World War I. This program identified homeownership as a foundational step towards transitioning to civilian life, establishing credit, and building a strong financial future for veterans and their families. Over the course of the last hundred years, the Home Loan Program has aided veterans throughout times of war and economic crisis, including the Great Depression, the Great Recession, and most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic.

During its existence, the program has distributed more than \$8.5 billion in loans to over 425,000 veterans and expanded to serve a growing and diverse veteran population. Today, the Home Loan Program is renowned for some of the lowest foreclosure rates in the country, personalized service, and a comprehensive homeowners insurance plan; and continues to deliver exceptional customer service to veterans who would otherwise not qualify for a loan.

Madam Speaker, I am proud that my home state has been a pioneer in assisting veterans to secure housing and I congratulate the California Department of Veterans Affairs on their exceptional work throughout the decades. The Home Loan Program has been a lifeline to thousands of veterans over the past 100 years, and I know that it will continue to help veterans achieve homeownership for the next 100 to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2021

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted on Roll Call No. 245.

COMMEMORATING THE 56TH ANNI- VERSARY OF MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 56th Anniversary of the passage of Medicaid and Medicare, two of the most beneficial and consequential government programs ever launched.

On July 30, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed Medicare and Medicaid into law as part of the Social Security Act and in the process made good on the commitments made by Presidents Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, and John Kennedy to provide health security to Americans in their old age.

Medicare is a promise kept to those who have contributed a lifetime to our nation could enjoy their golden years with peace of mind and the security of reliable, affordable, and high quality healthcare.

Likewise, Medicaid created a crucial partnership between the government and the people to provide a basic health care safety net for the most vulnerable Americans: children of adults with low incomes, persons with disabilities, and the poor.

Madam Speaker, 56 years later, the legacy of these programs have I proven how effective and critical government action can be to the life and wellbeing of our nation's most vulnerable.

In 1965, almost half of all Americans aged 65 and older had no health coverage, living in fear that the colossal healthcare costs would drive them and their families into poverty.

Today, because of Medicare, over 98 percent of seniors have health insurance, which has led to a five-year increase in life expectancy for those over 65.

Today, 55 million Americans rely on Medicare for health care, ranging from preventive services, hospital visits, lab tests, to critical medical supplies, and prescription drugs.

It is difficult for some to imagine what 1965 was really like, when today affordable, accessible and available health insurance is a reality for so many people living with disabilities.

Before Medicaid was enacted children from poor families, pregnant women, and low-income working Americans were not able to afford even the most basic medical care they needed to remain healthy and productive.

When the legislation was first passed, many claimed that Medicaid would not live up to its promise; but today, because of expansion of Medicaid through passage of the Affordable Care Act the program provides comprehensive coverage for over 70 million children, pregnant women, low-income adults, and people living with disabilities.

Madam Speaker, it cannot be seriously disputed that Medicare and Medicaid have changed our country and made it better.

In my home state of Texas and in communities across the country, both programs have significantly changed the lives and improved health outcomes of many Americans over the past century and represent the best of American values.

Unfortunately, Texas has the highest percentage of uninsured in the nation, and Texas'